

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 544  
By West

A RESOLUTION to designate a certain segment of Donelson Pike  
(State Route 255) in Davidson County as the  
"Frank Gorrell Memorial Highway".

WHEREAS, from time to time, this General Assembly has seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor those exemplary citizens who during their lifetimes contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Frank Gorrell was an extraordinary man who devoted his life to improving our great state through his visionary leadership; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gorrell was a senior partner in the law firm of Bass, Berry and Sims, one of Nashville's most prestigious and successful firms; and

WHEREAS, specializing in litigation and governmental affairs, Mr. Gorrell earned the admiration of the Tennessee legal community; and

WHEREAS, answering the call to public service, Mr. Gorrell was elected to the State Senate in 1963, serving the constituents of Davidson County assiduously until 1971; and

WHEREAS, during his renowned and honorable tenure in the Senate, Mr. Gorrell used his keen leadership skills and his unflagging concern for the citizens of Tennessee to build a better, more independent Senate; and

WHEREAS, he served as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and was elected Speaker of the Senate in 1967 during the administration of Governor Buford Ellington; and

WHEREAS, always an active leader in the Democratic Party, Mr. Gorrell served as chairman of the finance committee for the campaigns of U.S. Representative Bob Clement, U.S. Senator Jim Sasser and Governor Ned McWherter; and

WHEREAS, because of intelligence, well-cultivated talents and integrity, Mr. Gorrell held the respect and admiration of Democrats, Republicans and Independents alike; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gorrell would later become one of the most esteemed and efficient lobbyists on Capitol Hill, using his positive influence to shape important legislation, including safety issues and health care reform; and

WHEREAS, he was extremely involved in community affairs and served in numerous civic and charitable organizations, thus illustrating his commitment to the Nashville community; and

WHEREAS, this generous man will long be remembered, not only for his stellar career in public service, but also for his devotion to the law and his magnificent legal career; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Mr. Gorrell was selected into the American College of Trial Lawyers, which honor is reserved for only one percent of this nation's most respected trial lawyers; and

WHEREAS, his outstanding legal career serves as an enduring example of his commitment to the ideals that made this country strong; and

WHEREAS, it is rare that this state is blessed with such a dedicated public servant and truly remarkable man as Frank Gorrell, and it is most appropriate that this Body should commemorate his august memory; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That in memory of this exemplary Tennessean and estimable professional and public servant, the segment of Donelson Pike (State Route 255) in Davidson County from its intersection with Interstate 40 at Exit 216 southward to its intersection with Murfreesboro Road (U.S. Highway 41/705) is hereby designated as the "Frank Gorrell Memorial Highway".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That if and when the Department of Transportation completes construction of Donelson Pike Alternate in Davidson County, such route shall also be designated as the "Frank Gorrell Memorial Highway".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating route(s) as the "Frank Gorrell Memorial Highway".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.